

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy of a telephonic interview on August 17, 2004 between Examiner Truong, Primary Examiner Alam, and Applicants' Attorney Jeffrey Klayman to discuss the final Office action of June 17, 2004. Mr. Klayman explained that the present invention as claimed is directed toward a collaborative information system in which metadata is used to assess the reliability of data and contributors of the data. This is distinguishable from Gross and Aycock, neither of which describe a collaborative information system and neither of which uses metadata to assess the reliability of the data and the contributors of the data (although they do describe the use of the data to assess outside entities). As with other prior art database systems, Gross/Aycock are based on an assumption that the data stored in the database is reliable and therefore provide no mechanism for assessing the reliability of the data itself. Supervisor Alam confirmed this understanding, but identified U.S. patents 6,314,425 and 6,581,099 as potentially relevant prior art references. Agreement was reached as follows: Supervisor Alam agreed that neither Gross nor Aycock described assessment of the data and contributors of the data as claimed; Mr. Klayman agreed to file a response addressing the newly cited references; and Supervisor Alam agreed that Examiner Truong will perform additional examination of the application, including additional prior art searching if necessary, based on the response.

Applicant reiterates and maintains the positions set forth in the last office action response with regard to the Gross and Aycock references. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the present claims are allowable over Gross and Aycock as well as the other references of record.

U.S. Patent No. 6,314,425 relates to an Internet-based document management system that uses access tokens to control access to the documents. The document management system tracks many different types of information

(metadata), including such things as the name of the user who access a document, the type of access (e.g., read, write), the time of access, and other information. While this information (metadata) allows for tracking and billing document management transactions, no way is provided to assess the reliability of the actual data stored in the database or the contributors thereof.

U.S. Patent No. 6,581,099 relates to accessing sources of resources using a standard request/response protocol. A metabase stores information about the resources, and specifically stores access source bits that are used to control access to the resources. No way is provided to assess the reliability of data and contributors of data.

For the Examiner's convenience, copies of the newly cited patent references along with a new section 2 of forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B listing the newly cited references are attached hereto.

All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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